



November Meeting Minutes  
**Nisqually River Council**  
**November 19, 2010**  
**Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**  
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

**Council Members**

**Ron Averill** – *Lewis County*

**Bryan Bowden** – *Mount Rainier National Park*

**Rich Doenges** – *Thurston County*

**Cindy James** – *WA Dept. of Ecology*

**Monty Mahan** – *Pierce Conservation District*

**Steve Ruff** – *Miles Sand & Gravel*

**Jean Takekawa** – *Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge*

**Mark Thibo** – *WA DNR*

**David Troutt** – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*

**\* CAC Representatives (3)**

**Citizens Advisory Committee Members**

**Fred Michelson\***

**Steve Pruitt\***

**Marjorie Smith**

**Robert Smith\***

**Guests**

**Nicole Hill** – *Nisqually Land Trust*

**Joe Kane** – *Nisqually Land Trust*

**Tom Kantz** – *Pierce County*

**Chris Schutz** – *Pierce County*

**Jim Wick** - *Thurston County Surface Storm Water Advisory Board*

**Staff**

**Justin Hall** – *Nisqually River Foundation*

**Don Perry** – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*

**Sara Scott** – *Nisqually River Council*

**Sheila Wilson** – *Nisqually River Education Project*

**1. Call to Order, Officer Elections, Approval of Minutes and Agenda**

**Call to Order** – David called the meeting to order at 9:06.

**Approval of Minutes** – The minutes were approved as amended.

**Approval of Agenda** – The agenda was approved as presented.

**2. Introductions, Reports**

**Advisory Committee Reports**

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – David Hymel has moved out of the watershed and resigned from his position as Chair of the Council. Robert Smith, the Vice Chair, has taken on the role of Chair for the time being. Prior to resigning, David suggested that the Council review the current Advisory Committee and CAC structure and consider making some changes to increase efficiency/effectiveness.
- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – Fred reported that the Committee last met on September 29 to review the list of priorities for the forestry data and decided on nine desired layers. The committee is seeking volunteers to assist with the planning and

delivery of the Forestry Summit. The next EAC meeting is scheduled for November 30 at the Nisqually Natural Resources office.

It was reported that at the recent meeting discussing the proposed Upper Nisqually Forestry Summit it was determined that rather than holding two separate forestry summits, it would be beneficial to focus energies and resources on one, large, watershed-wide summit. The summit is planned for May 2011.

- *Economic Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – Steve reported that the Committee is working with the community of Graham to develop a proposal to Pierce County that creates an alternative tract for those electing to build in accordance with the community plans. This is in response to the proposed consolidation of the Pierce County Comprehensive Codes.
- *Chair Report* – David reported that he has been involved with the Puget Sound Partnership as a delegate of the Tribe, and he is also working as a watershed advocate with the PSP Ecosystem Coordination Board.

David also reported that a log truck crashed on Highway 7 last week and spilled 50 gallons of diesel fuel into the old channel of Ohop Creek. The NLT stewardship staff has more information, and the Council feels strongly that any mitigation funds must be spent in the Nisqually.

The NRC gets a certain allocation of PSAR and Salmon Recovery Funds each year, and as Jeanette has informed the Council previously, the Puyallup Watershed has \$144,917.02 in “excess” funds which must be expended by June 2011. They are offering these funds to the Nisqually for projects which have been approved through the Salmon Recovery Process. A motion was made for the Nisqually River Council to accept the \$144,917.02 to acquire the Tanwax property, with the understanding that the funds will be repaid within the next biennium as funds are available. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that Pack Forest has requested the Council participate in the ECOSEL Land Use Management Auction that Greg Ettl referenced at the November meeting. The Council agreed to provide a portion of the December meeting time to this exercise. Pack Forest will provide lunch for participants.

Sara provided a brief overview of the request Ron Nielson brought before the Council at the October meeting, and circulated a draft letter to the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners expressing the Council’s collective support for the maintenance of the land use designation “Forest Lands of Long Term Commercial Significance” on the 830 acres to the north of Mineral Lake.

### **Allied Programs**

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Nicole Hill introduced herself as the NLT’s Conservation Project Manager. She has joined the NLT staff to increase education around conservation easement opportunities for landowners. She is seeking opportunities to share information about conservation easements with groups, and requested any NRC members associated with groups that may be interested in hearing a 15 minute presentation on the topic contact her. Nicole can be reached at [nhill@nisquallylandtrust.org](mailto:nhill@nisquallylandtrust.org) or 360.498.3400 ext. 105.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila reported that another successful Water Quality Monitoring Day took place on October 28<sup>th</sup>, and participation in Bethel, Graham, and Eatonville is growing. Planting projects are underway in the Ohop and along the Mashel River, and salmon carcass tossing will begin in January. She has scheduled two additional teacher trainings this year and is increasing program partnerships. The Annual Student GREEN Congress is scheduled for March 17, 2011.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that Patagonia has funded \$4000 for planting projects. He's been representing the Council the Pierce County Flood Advisory Committee, and the Pierce County Open Space Task Force. He noted that the Yelm FFA was recently won a [national chapter award](#) for innovations in community development.
- *Stream Stewards* – Don reported that the Ohop Halloween Planting was successful with 1,800 plants installed in three hours. Cisco Morris recently conducted his radio show from Millpond Park during a volunteer event where 800 plants were installed along the banks of the Mashel River. Event partners included SPSSEG, Pierce Stream Team, NLT, and others. The Salmon Watcher Training is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> is first salmon carcass toss.

Don proposed that the Nisqually Tribal Planting Crew be recognized for the efforts and dedication at an upcoming meeting.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – No update.

### **3. Pierce Conservation District Update – Monty Mahan**

Monty Mahan spoke about recent threats to the funding and organization of the Conservation District.

Pierce Conservation District (PCD) and King Conservation District were recently named in a lawsuit challenging the legality of the parcel tax assessment that funds District work. He noted that approximately eight years ago the NRC was a key supporter of the \$5 per parcel tax assessment that funds the work of the Conservation District. Pierce County leadership has reacted strongly to the lawsuit and is proposing the elimination of the Conservation District and/or the transfer of District funds to other County agencies.

He reviewed the District's accomplishments from 2001-2010 and noted that PCD's projects and partnerships have a significant positive impact and value within the community.

Monty requested that NRC members supportive of the PCD express gratitude to Councilman Dick Muri, District 6, who has been a long-time supporter of the District and its work. Dick Muri can be contacted at [dmuri@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:dmuri@co.pierce.wa.us) or 253.798.3308. He noted that Roger Bush, who represents District 3 and is Chair of the County Council, has been less supportive and is a key player in determining the future of the Conservation District. Monty asked NRC members supportive of the PCD to contact Roger Bush and ask him to support the important work and programs that are made possible by the tax assessment. Roger Bush can be contacted at [bush@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:bush@co.pierce.wa.us) or 253.798.6626.

The NRC discussed the issue and determined to provide a letter of support for the work of the Pierce Conservation District.

Monty can be reached at [montym@piercecountycd.org](mailto:montym@piercecountycd.org) or 253.845.9770.

#### **4. Nisqually Delta Restoration Update – Jesse Barham**

Jesse shared photos and information about the estuary restoration project at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The new boardwalk is currently under construction and is expected to open just before Christmas. Jesse can be reached at [jesse\\_barham@fws.gov](mailto:jesse_barham@fws.gov) or 360.753.9467, and his presentation can be seen online at the NRC slideshare site: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-delta-restoration-update>.

#### **5. WREDI Update – Karelina & Steve**

Karelina Resnick and Steve Pruitt provided updates on the activities of the West Rainier Economic Development Initiative (WREDI). Work is underway to establish a Rural Stock Market and WREDI is currently applying for grant funds to further these efforts. They are seeking partnerships and match in the form of in-kind or direct financial support. [Michael Schuman](#), economist and author of *Small Mart Revolution* and *Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in the Global Age*, [spoke at the WREDI Summit](#) last spring, and is supportive of this effort.

A website is in development and is expected to be online by the middle of December [<http://wredi.org/>]. You can contact WREDI at 360.879.2033 or [info@wredi.org](mailto:info@wredi.org).

#### **6. For the Good of the Order**

Bryan reported that the proposal to allocate some of his time to review community forest options in the Nisqually has been approved by MRNP.

David reported that the Tribe recently acquired a 65' research vessel and he proposed a Nisqually Shoreline cruise this spring.

#### **7. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05.

*Next Meeting: Friday December 17<sup>th</sup> at Pack Forest.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS: NISQUALLY

### January

- 1/21 Friday, NRC Meeting
- 1/22 Saturday, Roy Salmon Homecoming
- 1/29 Saturday, Yelm Shoreline Work Party, Nisqually Land Trust

### February

- 2/1 Nisqually Wildlife Refuge Boardwalk Opening Celebration (*planned*)
- 2/11 Saturday, Salmon Carcass Fling, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Eatonville
- 2/18 Friday, NRC Meeting

### March

- 3/19 Saturday, NRC Annual Retreat (*tentative*)

### April

- 4/2 Saturday, Nisqually Land Trust's 19th Annual Auction & Dinner Gala
- 4/15 Friday, NRC Meeting